

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 VICTOR 00531 141701Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

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FM AMEMBASSY VICTORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0969

INFO AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L VICTORIA 0531

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINR, PEPR, PGOV, SE

SUBJECT: RULING PARTY CALLS FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF ONE PARTY STATE

1. SECOND NATIONAL CONGRESS OF RULING SEYCHELLES PEOPLE'S UNITED PARTY (SPUP) COMPOSED OF SOME SIXTY DELEGATES REPRESENTING 14 DISTRICTS MET INTERMITTENTLY MAY 31 - JUNE 9 IN VICTORIA. MOST SIGNIFICANT RESULT OF CONGRESS WAS ANNOUNCEMENT BY PRESIDENT RENE AT CLOSING SESSION THAT SPUP HAD FULFILLED ITS ROLE AS "REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATION STRUGGLING FOR LIBERATION" AND WOULD BE REPLACED BY SEYCHELLES PEOPLE'S PROGRESSIVE FRONT (SPPF). ACCORDING RENE, ROLE OF FRONT WILL BE TO WORK "TOWARDS NATIONAL UNITY AND EVOLUTION OF A WORKER'S STATE". MEMBERSHIP IN FRONT, WHICH RENE CALLED THE "VANGUARD OF THE PEOPLE", WILL BECOME MORE DIFFICULT TO ENSURE NEW BODY IS COMPOSED EXCLUSIVELY OF SEYCHELLOIS WHO "ARE COMMITTED TO SOCIALIST PRINCIPLE" AND ACCEPT AIMS, PROGRAM AND DISCIPLINE OF THE FRONT. ONLY FRONT MEMBERS WILL BE ELIGIBLE FOR ELECTION AS PRESIDENT, APPOINTMENT TO A CABINET POST OR ELECTION TO YET-TO-BE-ESTABLISHED

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 VICTOR 00531 141701Z

NATIONAL PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY.

2. IN READING OUT SELECTED PORTIONS OF SOME RESOLUTIONS, RENE ALSO SAID SEYCHELLES MUST RETAIN ITS ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE FROM PROSPECTIVE AID DONORS, CALLED FOR "MASSIVE PROGRAM OF POLITICAL EDUCATION", AND WARNED INDEPENDENT PRESS THAT IF IT IS NOT CONTRIBUTING TO CREATION OF "NEW SOCIETY" IT IS

DOING A DISSERVICE TO THE PEOPLE AND MAY BECOME "AN ENEMY OF THE PEOPLE." RENE ANNOUNCED CIVIL SERVICE REFORMS EMPHASIZING LOYALTY AND MERIT AS SOLE BASES FOR PROMOTION AND SAID LIBERATION ARMY WILL NOT BE AN "ARMY OF PARASITES" AS ELSEWHERE IN DEVELOPING WORLD BUT WILL BECOME INCREASINGLY INVOLVED IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. FOLLOWING UP ON THEMES SET FORTH IN JUNE 5 "LIBERATION DAY" ADDRESS, RENE SAID THERE IS NO ROOM FOR "SOCIALLY-DIVISIVE" PRIVATE MEDICAL PRACTICE, CALLED FOR GRADUAL ABOLITION OF TENANT-LANDLORD RELATIONSHIP AND THE REDISTRIBUTION OF AGRICULTURAL LAND IN ORDER STIMULATE PRODUCTION.

3. EXCERPS FROM RESOLUTIONS ON FRONT'S FOREIGN POLICY INCLUDED REAFFIRMATION OF POSTURE OF "POSITIVE NON-ALIGNMENT" AND REFUSAL "TO BE DRAWN INTO ANY OF THE SUPER POWER CAMPS". RENE SAID SPPF WILL SEEK "TO IDENTIFY ITSELF WITH WORLD SOCIALIST MOVEMENT" AND SUPPORTED THE DISMANTLING OF ALL FOREIGN BASES IN INDIAN OCEAN. RENE ALSO URGED PROGRESSIVE COUNTRIES TO OPPOSE EFFORT AT "ECONOMIC RECOLONIZATION" OF AFRICA AND RESTATED HIS POSITION ON INVIOABILITY OF AFRICAN BORDERS. FRONT, RENE STRESSED, WOULD SPEAK OUT ON INTERNATIONAL ISSUES AND WOULD NOT BE INTIMIDATED.

4. RENE WAS RE-ELECTED TO PRESIDENCY OF FRONT AND ALL GOS MINISTERS WERE RETAINED AS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS. ONLY SIGNIFICANT SHIFT WAS ELECTION OF MINISTER OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS OGILVY BERLOUIS TO IMPORTANT POST OF ORGANIZING
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 VICTOR 00531 141701Z

SECRETARY IN PLACE OF MINISTER OF WORKS AND PORTS PHILIBERT LOIZEAU, AN SPUP WHEEL HORSE WHO HAD BEEN SPUP OFFICE HOLDER SINCE 1966. LOIZEAU IS NOW ONLY MINISTER WHO IS WITHOUT SPECIAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE POST. MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE JACQUES HODOUL WAS ELECTED TO NEW POST OF POLITICAL SECRETARY.

5. EMBASSY WILL POUCH FULL TEXT OF RESOLUTION WHEN AVAILABLE.

6. COMMENT: ESTABLISHMENT OF ONE PARTY STATE WAS NOT UNEXPECTED. RENE HAD GIVEN CLEAR SIGNAL AT RECENT PRESS CONFERENCES THAT THIS WAS HIS GOAL BUT INDICATED IT WOULD FOLLOW AND NOT PRECEDE DELIBERATIONS OF CONSTITUTIONAL COMMISSION WHICH IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN TASK OF DRAWING UP NEW CONSTITUTION IN NEXT FEW MONTHS. SPPF RESOLUTIONS ON RESTRICTED MEMBERSHIP AND EMPHASIS ON DISCIPLINE APPEAR TO CONFLICT SHARPLY WITH RECENT PRIVATE REMARKS BY RENE THAT HE WOULD WELCOME HIGHLY PLURALISTIC PARTY STRUCTURE.
MATTSON

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